



**REENTRY  
IS  
“A SECOND  
CHANCE TO  
MAKE A  
FIRST  
IMPRESSION”**



#### **Inside this issue:**

Northern Kentucky	<b>1</b>
Legal Aid Schedule	<b>2</b>
Most Frequently Asked Questions	<b>4</b>
Programs	<b>5</b>
This Month's Tool For Your Tool Box	<b>6</b>
Case Management	<b>7</b>

## **Kentucky Department of Corrections Offender Newsletter**

# **HOMEWARD BOUND**

## **Northern Kentucky Resources**

**By Staci Alder**

The Northern Kentucky (NKY) Reentry Team, which began meeting in 2005, currently has a membership of over 150 individuals who come from over 60 different agencies across the state of Kentucky. This includes but is not limited to the following: KY DOC; KY Probation & Parole; US Federal Probation; Administrative Offices of the Courts; Department of Public Advocacy; Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; local jail officials; various local, state, and federal government agencies; community and social service agencies; mental health and substance abuse treatment providers; employment service providers; housing agencies; state and community colleges; community organizations; faith based organizations; and individual community members who have an interest in offender reentry.

Since the NKY Reentry Team was established, the Team has worked diligently to establish various reentry efforts across the NKY community. Some of these efforts include the NKY Female Offender Reentry Project—intensive case management services available to female offenders being released to the NKY area from KY prisons; Circles of Hope Mentoring—mentoring in a group setting for NKY offenders; and Second Chance Mentoring—one-on-one mentoring to state inmates releasing to NKY. These services have shown a dramatic cost savings of \$1.5 million dollars to the Commonwealth of KY since 2009 when the first of 165 participants were served. The team is also now working diligently with Pre-Trial Services to determine what type of needs are most prevalent to their offenders and how the NKY Reentry Team can help to meet those needs.

**Continued on page 2**

**HOMEWARD BOUND****Northern Kentucky continued...**

The NKY Reentry Team is in the final stage of developing a NKY Reentry Resource Manual for KY DOC. This manual includes community resources and various reentry services, as well as a “How To/FAQ” section which addresses questions that are commonly asked by offenders. The manual will also include commonly used forms such as applications for a KY birth certificate, SNAP benefits, etc. This will be made available on the DOC website and can easily be printed off as needed, either as an entire manual or in necessary sections.

For more information about the NKY Reentry Team or to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Staci Alder: [staci.alder@ky.gov](mailto:staci.alder@ky.gov).

**Legal Aid Workshop Schedule for Kentucky****Hopkinsville**

Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

Hopkinsville Chamber of Commerce  
2800 Fort Campbell Blvd.

RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 8899

**Bowling Green**

Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

Bowling Green/Warren County  
American Legion

208 Dishman Lane

RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 8899

**Paducah**

Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m–12:30 p.m.

McCracken County Public Library  
555 Washington Street

RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 7399

**Owensboro**

Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 12-3 p.m.

American Legion

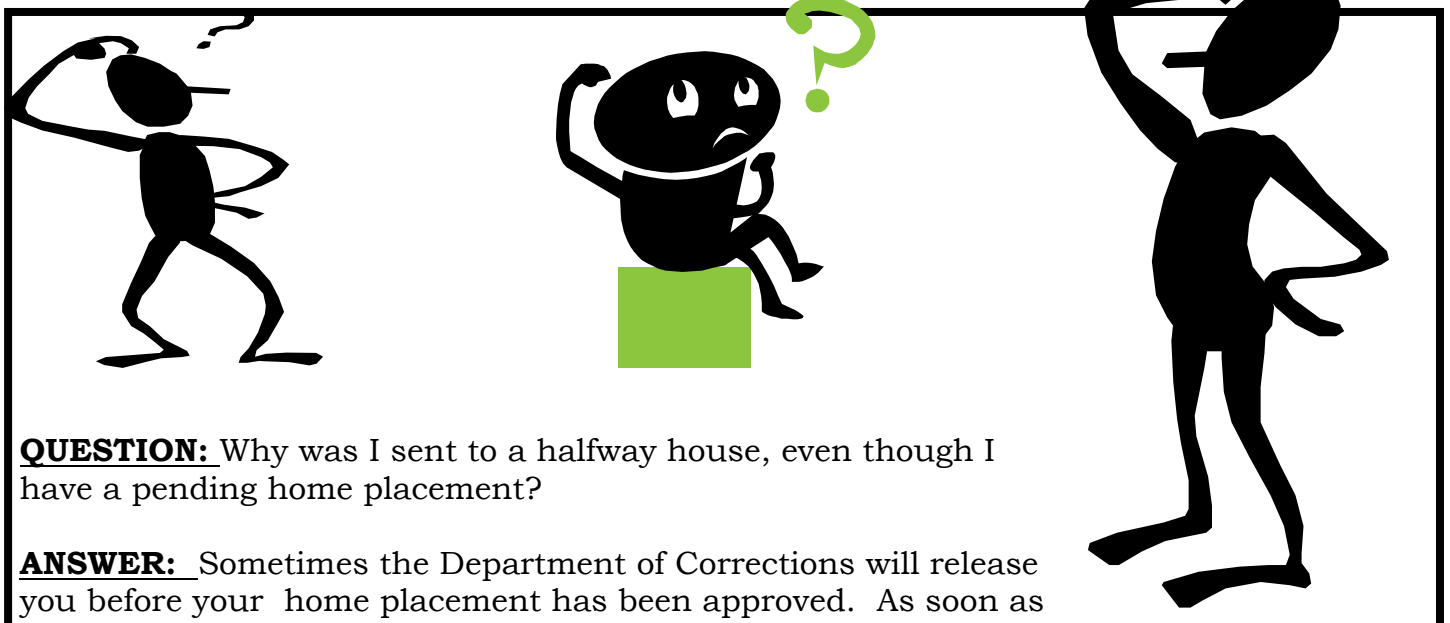
118 W. Veterans Blvd.

RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 4099

Examples of the services the workshops offer are expungement of records, information on child support and divorce.



## MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ?



**QUESTION:** Why was I sent to a halfway house, even though I have a pending home placement?

**ANSWER:** Sometimes the Department of Corrections will release you before your home placement has been approved. As soon as your home placement has been approved, you will be released from the halfway house. If your home placement is denied, you will have to submit another home placement, or work the halfway house program.

**QUESTION:** Is it true that starting in January of 2013 MGT goes from 7 days a month to 10 days a month?

**ANSWER:** : Currently, MGT awards will continue to be 7 days per month.

**QUESTION:** If I am on HIP can I switch to MRS?

**ANSWER:** Yes if you are on HIP and meet the criteria for MRS when it is time to switch your officer will let you know.

**QUESTION:** If I am on HIP can I still get parole?

**ANSWER:** Yes, the parole board does a file review and if they grant parole your officer will inform you of their decision. In many cases, parole is recommended after you have transferred to HIP.

If you are currently on parole, you cannot transfer to HIP, but your parole officer may place you on electronic monitoring as a sanction.



## Correction's Program Update

by Mary Godfrey

In the Spring of 2011 the KARE sub-committee on Programs started an assessment of programs that were offered for offenders within the Kentucky Department of Corrections institutions. This committee included representatives from all institutions.

The committee was tasked with identifying programs, activities and clubs that were already available for offenders.

- *Programs were assessed to determine if they met the criteria of an Evidence Based Program.*
- *Activities and clubs were removed from the programs list.*

A section on LS/CMI (risk/needs assessment) provides statistical data captured from completed assessments.

- *The risk/needs assessment identifies the individual inmate's criminogenic needs.*
- *The individual criminogenic needs will be addressed by referring inmates to programs that will meet their needs.*

Following the assessment of programs already available to inmates, a national search was made for Evidence Based Programs that would fill the gaps identified by the assessment.

A matrix is provided on the Department of Corrections intranet-listing all programs that are offered and at which institutions. This matrix identifies evidence based programs and programs for which good time/sentencing credits are awarded for successful completion.

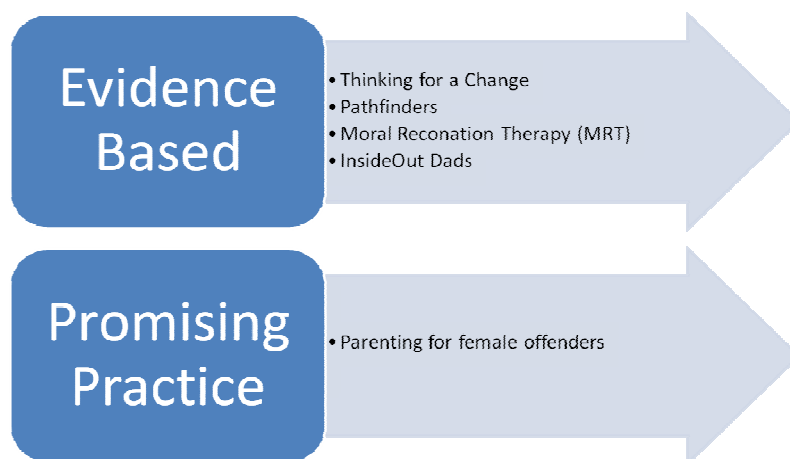
There is also a synopsis of programs, activities and clubs that are provided for the offenders.

**The following criteria has been established to identify programs as Evidence Based:**

- *A program that would become the cornerstone of future programs.*
- *Programs must be cognitive behavioral therapy based.*
- *Programs must address criminogenic needs as identified by the risk/needs assessment utilized by the department.*
- *Require ongoing fidelity studies of identified programs.*
- *Require programs that have been proven effective in reducing recidivism in like inmate populations.*
- *A six month program that would allow good time/sentencing credit to be awarded to inmates participating and successfully completing the programs.*

Training for staff who will present programs is very important to provide uniform materials with the same level of instruction. This will ensure that published fidelity studies are maintained.

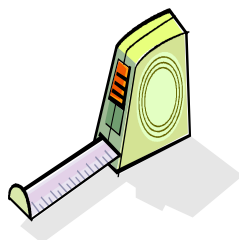
Here is a sampling of programs that have been identified as meeting the established criteria and are in place in some facilities. The goal is to be able to offer these programs at all Kentucky DOC institutions and in the community when the offender is released providing the offender with a continuum of care.



As these programs are implemented an assessment of other programs within our institutions will be conducted to determine if the programs should be retained or deleted.



## March's Tool For The Toolbox "COURAGE"



According to Mr. Webster, courage is the "ability to face danger without fear." From an offender's perspective the perceived danger is CHANGE. As we all know, change can be *scary*.

We as humans don't necessarily embrace change. We like our comfort zone and resist the implementation of something new. Something new means having to move out of our routine and do things differently. This could signal a sign for fear...what if I fail, what if this doesn't work, what if I can't find a job, what if my family doesn't want me,...what if...what if...what if...!!!

Reentry is a new concept for the offender population as well as the correctional staff. We are changing our philosophy by addressing your risk and needs on an individual basis. When the Department of Corrections embarked upon this endeavor two years ago, we knew it would take time. The offender population is uncertain of what the future will bring and it's up to staff and stakeholders to show you the meaning of the word courage. Embracing this new philosophy means keeping a positive outlook about change and pointing out the progress we are making. In last month's newsletters we received a report card from "*The Center for Effective Public Policy*" by Gary Kempker.

As we saw with Mr. Kempker's report, Kentucky is doing extremely well. We found the courage to take the first step in the implementation of this new philosophy and now we need to move forward and embrace the next phase of reentry. Will courage be required...yes. Can this be accomplished even in the midst of our difficult economic times...most definitely.

## CASE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

BY Brigid Adams



### *What does case planning mean to me?*

The Department of Corrections has conducted over 22,400 risk and need assessments on offenders in prisons, jails, halfway houses and in the community. The Department began using the Level of Service / Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) in July, 2010. This assessment enables staff to identify the offender's risk of return to prison as well as the needs to be addressed to reduce that risk.

Now that we are able to identify the offenders needs, we can develop a case management plan to create a roadmap with the offender related to education, programming and resources.

### *So what is a case management plan?*

The case management plan is an opportunity to develop goals related to the offender's identified needs. For example, if an offender is seeking to rebuild a relationship with a loved one, it would be important to develop a few tasks to help achieve this goal. Once you have identified a goal to work on, you can develop a checklist of how to accomplish the goal. In this case, one thing on the checklist is to write a letter to the loved one just explaining the case plan. This is an easy letter to write, because the offender can explain what the case plan is, and how it will impact their incarceration or supervision. The checklist will serve as a list of tasks necessary to accomplish the goal. The goal and the tasks should have specific, measurable timelines. So, the offender will be expected to write the letter to his loved one within a couple of weeks, and report to the caseworker when it has been accomplished.

### *This seems like it focuses on weaknesses....*

Actually, the case management plan is a strength-based approach for the offender. The case plan will provide the opportunity for the offender to list some strengths, which may include:

- Program completion information
- GED, vocational or educational courses completed
- Strong work history

**continued on page 8**





Additionally, the offender will also list at least one pro-social contact in the community. This may be a mentor from a community-based agency, their AA or NA sponsor prior to their incarceration, or a faith-based contact from their church. For some offenders, it may just be a person in their family that serves as a positive role model and will be a source of emotional support through their incarceration and release.

#### *Who is involved in the case management plan?*

Many staff may be involved in the development of a case management plan. The offender, their case worker, the unit team, the probation and parole officer, community-based agencies and other stakeholders. For example, if the offender is nearing release, the reentry coordinator may be involved. If the offender has medical or mental health issues, the medical or mental health providers may need to be involved.

#### *When will the offenders get a case management plan?*

Training on how to create a case management plan is scheduled for April 2012. Staff will begin developing case management plans for offenders once they have been trained. More information about implementation will be provided in the staff trainings.

#### *How was our case management plan developed?*

The case management plan was developed after reviewing a number of sample case management plan from other states. We took the strongest components of those plans and modified them for Kentucky's needs. The case management plan development also considered the "TPC Case Management Handbook" created by the National Institute of Corrections, which details best practices in case planning.